

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were presented for prosecution and remain pending. Claims 1-12, 14 and 15 stand rejected and claims 13 and 16-18 are allowed. Applicant gratefully appreciates the indication of allowable claims.

The informal drawings of August 12, 2003 were indicated as being of not sufficient quality to permit examination. However, formal drawings dated October 3, 2003 were duly submitted, and appear in PAIR. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings meet all statutory requirements, and any such requirements for replacement drawings should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 8, and 14-15 to address the 35 USC 112, second paragraph issues. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as allegedly being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant submits that the claims as presented meet the statutory requirements as outlined in the Interim Guidelines and case law. However, Applicant has herein amended claims 1 and 8 to include further recitation of a practical application, namely, “outputting an identified foreground segment” (Claim 1) and “means for indicating that the block is part of a foreground segment.” Applicant respectfully submits that the claims meet the requirement of providing a useful, tangible and concrete result. For example, the recited features including: (1) determining if the block is part of a foreground segment, (2) outputting an identified foreground segment, and (3) means for indicating that the block is part of a foreground segment, each clearly meet the requirements outlined in the Interim Guidelines, including providing a useful result (e.g., such as that described in the background relating to processing check images); being tangible in the

sense that, e.g., determining if a block is part of a foreground segment is not abstract; and being concrete in that the result is repeatable and predictable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 meet the statutory requirements of 35 USC 101.

Each of the claims not specifically addressed herein is believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as for additional reasons not presented herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hoffman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael F. Hoffman
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Dated: 1/17/07

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